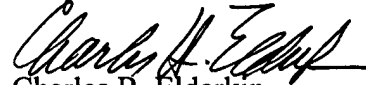


REMARKS

The above amendments are made to more clearly define the invention under United States practice, and to correct obvious typographical errors. An early and favorable action on the merits of the application is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles B. Elderkin

Registration No. 24,357

CBE/dgr:4352861

ALSTON & BIRD LLP

Post Office Drawer 34009

Charlotte, NC 28234

Tel Charlotte Office (704) 331-6000

Fax Charlotte Office (704) 334-2014

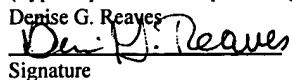
CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. 703 305-3230 on the date shown below.

January 28, 1999

(Type or print name of person signing certification.)

Denise G. Reaves




Signature

1/28/99

Date

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner For Patents, Box PCT, Washington, DC 20231, on January 28, 1999.


Denise G. Reaves